Rural District of Aysgarth.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1957.

Aysgarth Rural District Council

Members of the Council

Chairman - Councillor J. Sunter

Vice-Chairman - Councillor Mrs. A. M. Mason

Abbotside High	R. Balderston, Esq.
	J. Sunter, Esq., (Chairman)
Abbotside Low	J. R. Hopper, Esq.
Askrigg	J. Trotter, Esq.
	R. H. Widdows, Esq.
Aysgarth	T. W. Cherry, Esq.
Bainbridge	R. F. Kettlewell, Esq.
	W. Lambert, Esq.
	R. Mason, Esq.
Bishopdale & Newbiggin	J. Chapman, Esq.
West Burton	J. Hammond, Esq.
	Mrs. J. A. A. Johnson.
Carperby-cum-Thoresby	R. W. Foster, Esq.
Hawes	G. H. Ashton, Esq.
	G. Dinsdale, Esq.
	C. W. Layberry, Esq.
	Mrs. A. M. Mason, (Vice-Chairman)
	J. W. Metcalfe, Esq.
Thoralby	W. E. Metcalfe, Esq.
Thornton Rust	T. Metcalfe, Esq.

Officers

Clerk of the Council	John J. Willan
Medical Officer of Health	John L. Cotton, M.B., Ch,B., D.P.H.
Public Health Inspector and Surveyor	Kenneth J. Jolley, D.P.A., M.A.P.H.I.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1957

To the Chairman and Members of the Aysgarth Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1957.

The birth-rate (11.8 per 1000 population) is the lowest recorded in recent years and compares unfavourably with the rate for England and Wales of 16.1 per 1000 population. The death rate continues above the national figure (11.5) at 16.8. These two factors tend to aggravate the fall of population in the district. Since the 1951 census figure of 3607, the estimated population has now fallen to 3390.

Minor epidemics of measles and whooping cough were the only infectious diseases of note during the year.

In the field of environmental hygiene there is little progress to report. The new water scheme for the upper dale remained almost at a standstill during the year and it will be at least 1960 before completion can be expected. A series of wet summers have enabled the district to escape any water shortage but this good fortune cannot be expected to last for ever.

Finally I should like to express my appreciation to the Members and Officials of the Council for their help and cooperation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant

John L. Cotton

(John L. Cotton)
Medical Officer of Health.

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SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

(a) General Statistics

Area (in acres)	81,032
Population (Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population Mid 1957)	3,390
Net decrease of Resident population (mid 1956 - mid 1957)	20
Population (1931 census)	4,257
Population (1951 census)	3,607
Number of inhabited houses (1951)	1,209
Number of inhabited houses (1957)	1,252
Rateable Value of district (April 1957)	£ 22,092
Product of a penny rate	£ 86

(b) Vital Statistics

	Males	Females	Total	Rates per 1000 home Population	
				Local	England & Wales
1. BIRTHS					
Live Births					
Legitimate	21	16	37) 40	11.8	16.1
Illegitimate	1	2	3)		
Still Births					
Legitimate	0	0	0) 0	0*	22.4
Illegitimate	0	0	0)		
2. DEATHS					
All causes	32	25	57	16.8	11.5
Maternal causes	-	0	0	0 *	0.47 *
Enteritis & Diarhoea (under 2 years)	0	0	0	0	---
* Rates per 1000 total (live & still) births					
3. INFANTILE DEATHS					
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	0	1	1	25.0 (Rate per 1000 live births)	23.0
Legitimate Infants	0	0	0	0 (Rate per 1000 legitimate births)	-
Illegitimate Infants	0	1	1	333.3 (Rate per 1000 illegitimate births)	-
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0	0	0	0	-
Deaths from Whooping-cough (all ages)	0	0	0	0	-

CLASSIFIED CAUSES OF DEATH

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis	1	0	1
Other Infectious and parasitic diseases	0	0	0
Malignant diseases	5	4	9
Cardia Vascular	22	18	40
Pneumonia	0	0	0
Other respiratory diseases	1	0	1
Digestive diseases	0	0	0
Congenital Malformations	0	0	0
Other diseases	1	2	3
Vehicle Accidents	0	0	0
Other Accidents	1	1	2
Suicide	1	0	1
Total deaths (all causes)	32	25	57

POPULATION TREND

	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950
Estimated mid-year population	3390	3410	3430	3450	3474	3492	3534	3573
Birth-Rate	11.8	15.8	18.4	12.2	22.5	17.5	18.7	12.0
Death-Rate	16.8	17.6	16.3	19.1	15.0	14.9	17.0	14.3

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

It was not necessary to take action under Section 47 of the above Act which gives the Council power to remove to suitable premises, persons who are not able to devote to themselves and are not receiving from other persons, adequate care and attention.

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

The details of staff are given at the beginning of the report.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Laboratory facilities are provided at the Public Health Laboratory, Friarage Hospital, Northallerton.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The North Riding of Yorkshire County Council supply ambulance services from their station at Bainbridge.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

Local Hospital accommodation is provided in Northallerton by the Northallerton Hospital Management Committee of the Newcastle Regional Hospital Board. In addition, a number of residents receive both in-patient and out-patient treatment at Lancaster and Bradford hospitals.

NURSING IN THE HOMES

The Home Nursing and Domiciliary Mid-wifery service is under the general direction of the County Council, with the day-to-day administration being dealt with by the Wensleydale Area Local Health Sub-Committee. Three district nurse/midwives operate in the area.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

The equivalent of 0.05 whole time Domestic Helps was employed in the District during the year and a total of 104 hours were worked. It is very difficult to recruit domestic helps in the area. One household was assisted.

SECTION C

WATER SUPPLIES

The scheme to utilise the Fossdale springs to supply High Shaw, Simonstone, Hardraw, Sedbusk and Appersett and also to augment the Hawes Supply made hardly any progress during the year. Whilst the scheme has been approved in principal by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and by the County Council it is unlikely that the scheme will be in operation before 1960. I can only reiterate the remarks of my predecessor that the existing supplies in the upper dale constitute a grave danger to public health. I should add that the Aysgarth Rural District Council are anxious to bring in this new scheme to provide a safe supply of water with the minimum of delay.

Details about the supply position during the year are to be found in the Public Health Inspector's Section.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Disposal Works at Carperby have been reconstructed. Two rotary distributors, fed through a dosing chamber, have been installed in what were formally fill and draw tanks converting them into percolating filters. A storm tank has been made and the settlement tank improved to give better settlement.

The works are now producing a reasonable effluent which could be further improved, if it is thought necessary, by the inclusion of a humus tank in the system.

No other works have been started in the year under review and the villages of Askrigg, Burtersett, West Burton and Thoralby are in need of a proper system of sewers and sewage disposal works.

SECTION D

HOUSING

Details regarding housing are to be found in the Public Health Inspector's Section.

SECTION E

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Details of this work and of meat inspection are to be found in the Public Health Inspector's Section.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Infectious diseases notified	Males	Females	Total
Whooping cough	12	10	22
Measles	39	38	77
Pneumonia	2	3	5
Meningococal Infection	1	0	1
Erysipelas	0	1	1

Diptheria Immunisation

The following figures show the immunisation rate of the child population in the area administered by the Wensleydale Area Local Health Sub-Committee :-

Age Group	Immunised
0 - 4 yrs	53%
5 - 14yrs	91%

The immunisation rate for the Aysgarth Rural District is considerably higher than the above figures indicate.

Small-pox Vaccination

45% of the children born during the year were notified as having been vaccinated against small-pox (57% in 1955). Whilst the figure for 1957 is below that for the previous year, it is still above the average for the Country at the present time.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

Poliomyelitis vaccination proceeded steadily throughout the year. The comparatively slow rate at which children were vaccinated was due to the uncertain delivery of vaccine often in very small amounts. However by the end of the year some 31% of all children aged under 15 years in the Wensleydale Local Health Area (of which the Aysgarth Rural District is part) had been vaccinated with two injections. The percentage of children vaccinated in the Aysgarth Rural District is higher than 31%

It is anticipated that this figure will be doubled by the end of 1958.

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Group	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 - 4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 - 14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15 - 24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25 - 34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35 - 44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45 - 54	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55 - 64	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 - +	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

There were 18 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 4 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis on the Register at the 31st December, 1957. This gives a rate of 6.5 cases of tuberculosis per 1000 population.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S SECTION

INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

A total of 1,526 inspections and visits were made during the year, for this purpose it was necessary to travel 8,023 miles, an average of 5.3 miles per visit or inspection. Details of the visits or inspections are found in the following table.

	Inspections	Informal Notices	Complied with	Statutory Notices	Complied with
Council Works	363	Nil	-	-	-
Housing	90	14	14	6	6
Public Health Acts	275	3	3	Nil	Nil
Improvement Grants	107	-	-	-	-
Slaughter Houses (for the purpose of meat inspection)	191	-	-	-	-
Water Supply	299	-	-	-	-
Food Premises	58	7	6	-	-
Petroleum Regulations	25	-	-	-	-
Rodent Control	118	4	4	-	-

WATER SUPPLY

The following is a table showing rainfall and sunshine as measured at Hawes.

Month	Rainfall in inches		Sunshine in hours		Increase +) Decrease -) for 1957	
	1956	1957	1956	1957	Rainfall	Sunshine
Jan.	4.31	8.21	-	24.2	+ 3.90	-
Feb.	0.86	4.18	-	75.6	+ 3.32	-
Mar.	2.60	4.35	-	75.0	+ 1.75	-
Apr.	1.74	0.49	-	142.9	- 1.25	-
May.	2.49	2.46	-	164.5	- 0.03	-
June	3.17	1.23	-	251.5	- 1.94	-
July	4.60	5.46	-	114.8	+ 0.86	-
Aug.	9.10	8.52	-	110.0	- 0.58	-
Sep.	4.02	5.40	75.3	117.3	+ 1.38	+ 42.0
Oct.	3.98	7.45	116.5	97.7	+ 3.47	- 18.8
Nov.	1.84	1.94	46.3	57.7	+ 0.10	+ 11.4
Dec.	8.23	5.35	14.5	40.1	- 2.88	+ 25.6
Total:	46.94	55.04	-	1265.3	+ 8.10	-

It will be seen that we have had rather more rainfall than in 1956, I have not been able to complete the table of comparison in respect of the sunshine figures as none are available for the first eight months of 1956 but next year I shall be able to do so.

Bacteriological Examination of Water Supplies

29 samples of water were examined by the Public Health Laboratory Service, the results are as follows :-

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Hawes	1	6
Hardraw	-	2
Carperby	1	2
Newbiggin and Thoralby	1	1
Addleborough Regional Supply	1	3
Appersett	1	2
Askrigg	1	1
Simonstone	-	1
Sedbusk	3	-
Private Supplies	1	1
Totals:	10	19

As in previous years most of the water samples have shown more than 3 coliform organisms with the presence of faecal coliforms and in consequence have been classified as unsatisfactory. There can be no question of an improvement in this direction until the various supplies are chlorinated.

Water Shortages.

In the month of June, which was a fairly dry month and followed two similar months, there were complaints of loss of pressure in the high parts of Gayle and actual shortage at Simonstone and Litherskew. The remainder of the "summer" was wet and there were no shortages in any of the supply areas.

Total Number of houses in the area	1252
Total Number of houses supplied from Council Mains	1022
Percentage of houses supplied from Council mains	81.6%

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Meat Inspection

It is estimated that 60% of the meat consumed in the Rural District is slaughtered in the four private slaughterhouses in the district sited in Hawes, Gayle, Aysgarth and Askrigg.

The butchers have continued to observe their obligation to notify the slaughter of food animals other than sheep and it has been possible to inspect all animals notified. I have endeavoured to cooperate with the butchers and I do not think they have been inconvenienced by being unable to take meat from the slaughterhouse because it had not been inspected.

The total number of animals inspected was 485 compared with 361 last year and the number of visits to inspect was 191 against 184. It will be seen that the position is little different from last year.

Unfit meat is still disposed of by burial on the Councils Refuse Tips. Whilst this method of disposal leaves much to be desired, at the moment no alternative can be offered.

The following table gives details of the food animals killed and the amount found to be unfit.

	Bullocks	Heifers	Total cattle (excluding Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	48	63	111	10	Nil	111	142
Number inspected	48	63	111	10	Nil	111	142
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CISTICERCI							
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	8	11	-	-	-	1
Percentage	6.25	12.69	9.91	-	-	-	0.71
Total Percentage	6.25	12.69	9.91	-	-	-	0.71
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY							
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	3	5	-	-	-	7
Percentage	4.2	4.76	4.54	-	-	-	4.93
Total Percentage	4.2	4.76	4.54	-	-	-	4.93

Other Foods

A total weight of other foods, including tinned foods, amounting to 60 lbs. 9 ozs. has been found upon inspection to be unfit for consumption.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

There are 74 premises in the district which come within the scope of the above regulations, they are as follows :-

Cafes	6
Public Houses	18
Confectioners	5
Grocers	22
Butchers	8
School Canteens	7
Fish and Chip Shops	1
Fishmongers	2
Cheese Factory	1
Hotels	3

It will be seen from the table of inspections that 58 visits were made to this type of premises, most of the premises have either been made to comply with the structural requirements of the regulations or the occupiers have undertaken to do so in the near future. Eight plans were approved during the year for alterations and improvements to Food Premises.

SEWERAGE

Table showing number of houses connected to Public Sewers

Parish	No. of Houses	Population Served
Abbotside High	51	141
Abbotside Low	-	-
Askrigg	107	279
Aysgarth	54	149
Bainbridge	95	262
Bishopdale	-	-
Burton-cum-Walden	-	-
Carperby-cum-Thoresby	58	160
Hawes	351	976
Newbiggin & Thoralby	-	-
Thornton Rust	-	-
	716	1967

With a total population of approximately 3,390 the percentage for which sewerage is provided is 57.0%

HOUSING

The Housing Rent & Repairs Act 1954, Section 1 (Housing Proposals)

The following action was taken during the year to implement the Council's Housing Proposals made under the above act in 1955.

Part 3 (Action in the first five years)

Individual Unfit Houses

The Council undertook to deal with 41 houses in the first five years, 26 of these were in groups of two or more and 15 were single houses likely to be dealt with as individual unfit houses.

At the beginning of the year ten of these houses had been dealt with, five having been made fit, two closed informaly pending their being made fit, one had been demolished and two had been converted into garages.

This year eight houses have been dealt with, two have been made fit by the owners with the assistance of an improvement grant and six have been closed formally.

Clearance Areas.

No action has been taken under this part of the Act.

Housing Act, 1957, Improvement Grants

During the year the Council made 7 grants in respect of the improvement of houses and 4 grants in respect of the division of houses into two. The total amount offered was £ 2,485.

New Council Houses

During the year the Council had no new housing works in progress.

Housing Survey

The following table shows the progress of the Rural Housing Survey.

Parish	Not Inspected	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 5
Abbotside High	12	1	23	37	12
Abbotside Low	4	6	11	12	5
Askrigg	9	11	53	70	13
Aysgarth	5	16	23	24	7
Bainbridge	6	21	54	61	16
Bishopdale	9	-	2	1	-
Burton-cum-Walden	28	12	35	39	2
Carperby-cum-Thoresby	3	15	16	37	3
Hawes	16	106	134	125	45
Newbiggin	2	2	9	9	2
Thoralby	7	10	13	21	3
Thornton Rust	-	5	17	10	2
TOTALS:	101	205	390	446	110

Overcrowding

(a) Total number of houses overcrowded at the beginning of the year	1
(b) Number of families dwelling therein	1
(c) Number of new cases of overcrowding	Nil
(d) Number of cases relieved	Nil
(e) Number of persons concerned in such cases	Nil

The above table is based upon a survey carried out many years ago, which has been brought up to date year by year from information available which may not have been complete.

HOUSING AND NEW BUILDINGS

Houses built by Private Enterprise

The table below gives details of houses under construction and those completed since 1945 in the various parishes.

Parish	Completed	Under Construction
Hawes	2	-
Askrigg	5	-
Thornton Rust	1	-
Aysgarth	3	-
Low Abbotside	2	-
TOTAL:	13	Nil

HOUSES BUILT BY AYSGARTH R.D.C.

Parish	To 31/12/57	Under Construction
Hawes	44	-
Bainbridge	8	-
Askrigg	4	-
Carperby	6	-
Aysgarth	4	-
West Burton	2	-
TOTAL:	68	Nil

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, BUILDING BYELAWS

37 plans were considered during the year. Details are shown in the following table.

Parish	New Houses	Alterations to dwellings	Alterations to food Premises	Garages & Sheds	Cow-Sheds & Dairies	Alterations to buildings other than dwellings	Total
Hawes	-	3	3	3	-	-	9
Bainbridge	-	2	1	2	1	1	7
Askrigg	-	2	1	2	-	1	6
Carperby	-	3	1	-	-	-	4
Aysgarth	1	1	1	-	-	-	3
Thornton Rust	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
High Abbotside	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
Low "	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
West Burton	-	1	-	-	1	1	3
Thoralby	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
TOTALS:	1	14	8	9	2	3	37

RODENT CONTROL

118 visits were made during the year to Council and other properties.

The Councils' sewers were baited and poisoned twice during the year. The sewage works and tips were dealt with as infestations occured. 85 lbs. of bait, with warfarin, was given to householders for use on domestic premises, in addition to this free service, bait is sold for use on non-domestic premises.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

	Powered	Non-Powered	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted.
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are enforced by District Council	-	1	1	2	-	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 applied	26	-	26	10	1	-